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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE FIRST SESSION

(29 March–8 April 1993)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1993

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRMAN

At this final plenary meeting, on 8 April 1993, I would like, on behalf of the Committee, to summarize the most salient points arising from the deliberations of the Working Groups on Water and Mineral Resources. Emphasis should be placed on the need to consider water as the fundamental integrator for sustainable development, particularly integrated soil and water management at the local level. I should like to note the increased pressure on the scarce water resources of many countries and the need for pollution prevention, demand management, and reallocation to provide for the needs of future generations in a sustainable manner.

Minerals can be regarded, within the context of sustainable development, as a major resource for economic development, industrial diversification and poverty alleviation. When evaluating its socio-economic and environmental impacts, the Committee encourages the use of the life-cycle approach to determine the impacts of mineral extraction and processing, including recycling and reuse.

The need for technology cooperation for the management of water and mineral resources in developing countries and economies in transition should be encouraged as the best means of achieving socio-economic goals. Local knowledge which reflects social, cultural and economic values applicable to the area can be blended with new techniques to meet developmental goals. Capacity-building forms a key part of such a strategy.

The Committee is uniquely placed to provide the Economic and Social Council with an integrated overview of activities in relation to minerals, water and land management and to make recommendations on the future directions of these programmes. In this regard, Agenda 21 proposals must become a reality to ensure that the critical issues related to integrated water resources and mineral management are addressed by the United Nations system and others. The linkage between the activities of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Commission on Sustainable Development will be critical for the achievement of this common purpose.

In closing, I would like to thank the experts for their participation, advice and hard work during the session. I would also like to thank the Bureau for being reliable partners as we struggle to steer the ship to safety on its maiden voyage. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Guillermo Jorge Cano, Mr. Marek Hoffmann, Mr. Zhang Hai-Lun, and especially the Rapporteur, Mr. Denis A. Davis, for all their hard work during the session. Appreciation must also be expressed for the strong support provided by the Secretariat and the excellent advice of the specialized agencies. In particular, I would like to note the very relevant case-studies, projects and programmes carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Development and the importance of this work to the future activities of the Committee on Natural Resources.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. General recommendation concerning the date of the second session of the Committee on Natural Resources

1. The Committee on Natural Resources notes the advisability of maintaining the momentum developed at its first session with regard to the management of natural resources and also the special opportunity to provide advice to the Commission on Sustainable Development for its review of activities related to water in 1994. The Committee therefore seeks authority from the Economic and Social Council to schedule the second session in 1994, rather than 1995. The Committee would then resume the normal two-year meeting cycle, with the third session scheduled for 1996. The Committee has been advised by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance that the proposal does not have budgetary implications.

B. Other general recommendations

2. The Committee on Natural Resources recognizes the importance of actively pursuing its terms of reference during the intersessional period; the Committee therefore recommends that the Economic and Social Council authorize appropriate measures, such as mail circulation and review, to expedite the conduct of activities during the intersessional period.

3. The Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council that its report be forwarded to the Commission on Sustainable Development for its consideration of the sections of the report that relate to Agenda 21. 1/

4. The Committee wishes to draw to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the importance of water and mineral resources programmes in the context of sustainable development, and commends the work done by the Secretariat in providing support to the Committee.

C. Permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources

5. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

> While reaffirming the importance of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources to sustainable development, the Committee is of the view that the application of the principle in the area of mineral and water resources cannot be separated from other issues related to the sustainable development and management of water and mineral resources.
>
> The Committee therefore recommends that the issue of permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources no longer be included in the

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

agenda of its future sessions as a standing item, but that specific aspects of this issue be brought to the attention of the Committee under other items of the agenda relevant to the development of mineral and water resources.

The Committee also recommends:

(a) That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to update the content of section II (Water and the exercise of permanent sovereignty) of his report on permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources (E/C.7/1993/2) and, in so doing:

(i) To devote special attention to issues related to shared water resources;

(ii) To take into account comments made by the members of the Committee on this issue, as well as comments provided by Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations, such as the International Law Association, on the draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses, prepared by the International Law Commission;

(iii) To include an analysis of trends in recent negotiations and agreements related to shared water resources and to identify barriers to the implementation of existing agreements;

(b) That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare a study containing a review of the mining legislation of selected countries (developed and developing countries as well as economies in transition) and, in so doing, to focus, in particular, on licensing procedures, contractual provisions and other related issues. The study should take advantage of available existing data collected by other regional and interregional organizations and entities. It should include a review of technical cooperation activities carried out by the United Nations in the field of mining legislation.

D. <u>New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources</u>

6. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee wishes to emphasize that new techniques, such as remote sensing by satellite, play a complementary role in identifying, exploring for, developing and managing mineral and water resources. The Committee is of the view that remote sensing, with its capabilities of synoptic view, near real time data availability and improved spatial resolution, will be of paramount importance for monitoring and understanding the global hydrologic cycle. Such information has immediate application to integrated land and water management and longer-term application to the detection of the potential impacts of climate change.

The Committee notes that the application of new technologies and their most effective combination, including airborne and satellite technologies, should be based on an evaluation of needs and the nature of the problems or data gaps.

The Committee considers that, when addressing the subject of remote sensing in its future work, it should focus, in particular, on the possibilities for the establishment of national or, as appropriate, local natural resources management systems to address issues related to space technology applications in the mining and water resources sectors.

The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare, for the second or third session of the Committee, a note containing information on existing internationally agreed principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, as well as information on the present state of activities related to this issue within the United Nations system.

The Committee entrusts its Chairman to officially transmit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the relevant Secretariat entity and possible further action, a list of technical comments, observations and suggestions made during the discussion of this issue.

E. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources

7. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee stresses the importance of effective and coordinated implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the need for all countries to adopt proactive strategies in the field of water- and mining-related disasters; to that end, the establishment of national or, as appropriate, local committees to coordinate activities should be strongly encouraged.

The Committee recommends, in particular, that the organizations of the United Nations system, in dealing with natural or man-made disasters related to water and mineral resources, such as flooding, drought-driven famine, massive pollution, dam failures, soil degradation or salinization, mine explosion or caving, or land subsidence, devote priority attention to the development of strategies and programmes that integrate water and land issues.

The Committee recommends that the Secretariat be requested to prepare and publish a study on non-structural measures taken by various Governments for the prevention of disasters related to water and mineral resources.

The Committee invites the Intersecretariat Group on Water Resources to pay particular attention to the close interrelationship between the prevention and mitigation of water-related disasters and the sustainable development and management of water resources and ecosystems.

The Committee entrusts its Chairman to officially transmit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the relevant Secretariat entity and possible further action, a list of technical comments, observations and suggestions made during the discussion of this issue.

F. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources

8. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

In order to come to grips with the increasing threat to human living conditions from water-related problems, inter-agency cooperation needs to be further intensified; therefore barriers due to different perceptions of water issues by the various agencies should be minimized.

Water is a renewable but finite resource; it has to serve the total needs of all natural ecosystems, as well as the needs of human society - particularly in the context of the fight against poverty.

The crucial importance of the role and functions of the water cycle should be fully acknowledged.

Conservation of water resources is among the highest priorities. It is necessary, however, to avoid an exclusively anthropocentric approach in the consideration of water management issues.

The United Nations system should adopt and implement a holistic, integrated and balanced approach to water-related issues, taking into account both their economic and social implications and their impact on ecosystems.

The Committee recommends that organs and organizations of the United Nations system be encouraged by the Economic and Social Council to adopt and implement more coherent perceptions of water-related issues and to address the cognitive problems involved through effective intersectoral, interprofessional and interdisciplinary cooperation and effective joint programming in the area of water resources.

The Committee notes the important role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring progress in the overall implementation of Agenda 21 1/ and in recommending future courses of action.

With regard to its own role and future coordination of United Nations activities in the field of water resources in the context of sustainable development, the Committee wishes to bring the following points to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

(a) The Committee on Natural Resources is the appropriate committee to provide expertise and advice in the consideration of the parts of Agenda 21 and other policy documents related to water and mineral resources;

(b) The Committee considers that the closely interrelated water and land issues are inseparable components of sustainable development;

(c) The Committee acknowledges and supports the important role of the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the exchange of information and the substantive coordination of programmes aimed at the sustainable development of water resources.

The Committee also recommends that organs and organizations of the United Nations system be invited by the Economic and Social Council to further enhance their cooperation with regional and interregional organizations outside the United Nations system, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations. In this respect, the Committee notes with appreciation the work of the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation and its commitment to the strengthening of such cooperation.

The Committee considers that the role of women in the provision, management and safeguarding of water resources should be addressed as a high priority in inter-agency coordination and joint programming of activities within the United Nations system.

The Committee recommends that "Public participation in the sustainable development and management of water resources" be chosen as the theme for the observance of World Water Day, in 1994.

G. Matters arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the field of water resources

9. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

A key feature of the Committee on Natural Resources is that it is concerned with the availability and sustainability of resources. This involves the assessment of how resource needs can be met in the context of other requirements for land utilization and environmental conservation. In view of the overwhelming importance of water as a main carrier in the biochemical cycle, an ecosystems approach requires a detailed inventory of biological data, in particular with regard to fisheries, water-borne diseases, eutrophication and biological indicators.

A holistic approach to water and land management, as emphasized in Agenda 21, 1/ requires the integration of water and soil strategies. Soil is also a resource for minerals and natural ecosystems, as well as for agriculture. It therefore seems appropriate that the Committee should interpret its mandate as including the interrelationship between soil and water resources, and the need for the integration of land and water management issues; and that such issues be included in the agenda of future sessions of the Committee.

The Committee considers that a holistic approach implies that an initial problem diagnosis should be made for every major catchment/river basin, taking a medium-term perspective, of all the main issues of, hazards from, and man-induced influences on, the waters passing through the catchment basin above and below the ground, including an analysis of how crucial problems may be overcome and what administrative, financial and legislative measures and what incentives might be needed to solve these problems.

The Committee recognizes that the achievement of the objectives contained in Agenda 21 will require the establishment of priorities for action at the national level, and the support of the international community. The achievement of these objectives will necessitate the marshalling of substantial financial resources. Consequently, the Committee supports the concept of additional concessional financing to be made available for this purpose.

In view of ASCEND 21, 2/ chapters 31 and 35 of Agenda 21, and the Paris Declaration of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/World Meteorological Organization/International Council of Scientific Unions International Conference on Hydrology, "Towards the 21st Century: Research and Operational Needs", held in Paris from 22 to 26 March 1993, the Committee stresses the importance of furthering communication between the scientific and technological community on the one hand, and decision makers and the public on the other. It recommends that the presentation of results from scientific developments should be adjusted to the requirements of the decision-making processes, in order to optimize their benefits.

The Committee recognizes that due to variations in local conditions, it would be impossible to generate at short notice general priorities of activities relative to chapter 18 of Agenda 21. Nevertheless, immediate action is needed in view of high rates of population growth and their impact on land and water resources.

In view of the above considerations, the Committee recommends:

(a) That the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the regional commissions, and in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system, be requested to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources, at its second session, a status report on action taken by Governments in each region concerning integrated water resources development and management, and constraints and obstacles encountered in their efforts. Particular attention should be given to activities related to the development of systematic knowledge based on the collection and dissemination of data on common standards; the assessment of water resources; the identification of water demand and of patterns in the allocation of water resources; integrated management of water and land resources for food production and rural development; flood and drought management, including risk analysis and environmental and social impact assessment; institutional issues; issues related to human resources; research and development and technology transfer; capacity-building and training; the allocation of financial resources; and public awareness and participation. Issues related to the integrated management of land and water resources should also be considered;

(b) That the Secretary-General prepare a report on institutional and legal issues related to integrated water resources management, taking into consideration the work carried out by such non-governmental organizations as the International Association for Water Law;

(c) That the Economic and Social Council recommend to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization that they take the necessary steps to promote a dialogue between members of the scientific community and decision makers, in which decision makers provide guidelines with regard to relevant fields of research that would enable them to improve their management of water for sustainable development, and scientists provide information on developments and possibilities of research that could be of value for the solution of management problems;

2/ International Conference on an Agenda of Science for Environment and Development, organized by the International Council of Scientific Unions at Vienna in November 1991.

(d) That the Economic and Social Council invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to take appropriate steps to develop integrated water, soil and land-use management strategies for sustainable development and conservation of the natural resource base.

H. Issues concerning the sustainable development and use of water resources

10. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee stresses the importance of water management and the integrated consideration of soil and water resources, including groundwater. It endorses the concept of demand management as a means of relieving pressure on a scarce resource and stresses the importance of fostering public participation in the planning and management process, in particular the participation of women.

The scarcity and misuse of freshwater pose a serious and growing threat to sustainable development and to the protection of the environment. Human health and welfare, food security, industrial development and the ecosystems on which they depend are all at risk. The 500 government-designated experts who met during the International Conference on Water and the Environment in Dublin in 1992 saw the emerging global water resources picture as critical.

The global water cycle is a life-supporting system that has to be shared by humanity. It brings the water on which life and industrial production depend. It constrains the food production potential in the drylands. Adverse impacts of the water cycle include the leaching of minerals and human pollutants from the land, carrying them to aquifers, rivers and coastal waters, causing damage to biota and biodiversity. Any disturbances of the water cycle, including global warming, are propagated by circulating water, which has an increasing impact on landscapes and ecosystems.

Particular attention is called to the widespread coexistence of poverty and drought. Sustainable development will be crucially dependent on the equitable management of the water cycle in allowing livelihood security and preventing water pollution and land degradation. With 3 billion people added to the world population in the next few decades, the water crisis is expected to escalate rapidly. Therefore, the importance of cautious management of water resources will grow dramatically. The Committee feels that a global instrument or other formalized arrangement in the field of water is needed as an integral component in efforts to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty.

In view of the above considerations, the Committee:

(a) Recognizes the importance of formalizing the rights of humanity and duties of Governments in relation to the water cycle;

(b) Decides to study this issue in depth at its second session;

(c) Invites the Economic and Social Council to bring this issue to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191, paragraph 4 (c);

(d) Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session a report on existing instruments in other areas, which would be pertinent to global action on the water cycle, as well as the possible substantive content of such instruments.

In addition, the Committee invites the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To take freshwater issues into account when deciding on the agenda of forthcoming international conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, in 1995, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in 1996;

(b) To recommend to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa to pay particular attention to the most salient water interlinkages involved in the process of desertification.

Furthermore, the Committee recommends:

(a) That greater external financial support be given to developing countries for the purpose of improving their capacity for integrated management of soil and water resources, including groundwater;

(b) That countries give consideration to the adoption of water-pricing policies, bearing in mind their specific socio-economic requirements and constraints;

(c) That the Economic and Social Council invite the World Bank to strengthen and expedite activities of the International Programme for Technology Research for Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID).

The Committee invites the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council to consider modalities for enabling the Committee on Natural Resources to assist them in reviewing the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, 1/ taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission.

I. Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of water resources: information management

11. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee wishes to stress the importance of integrated information as an indispensable basis for the sustainable development and management of land and water resources.

The Committee:

(a) Recommends that the organizations of the United Nations system provide assistance to Governments, as appropriate, for establishing or strengthening their databases as tools for integrated action in the development and management of water resources, at the national and regional levels. Besides water-related data, such databases should incorporate socio-economic, biological, physical and chemical parameters into

integrated systems, notably geographical information systems (GIS), to be shared by sectoral authorities, decision makers, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector. Priority attention needs to be given to drought-prone countries, where haphazard development of water resources, in particular groundwater, is common;

(b) Takes note with appreciation of the coordinated efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system in the establishment of a system-wide integrated monitoring and assessment network, with a view to evaluating periodically the state of the freshwater resources on a global basis, and recommends that they give urgent consideration to this task, in full cooperation with the regional commissions.

J. Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of water resources: capacity-building for water resources management

12. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

While recognizing that capacity-building is one of the essential preconditions for the implementation of Agenda 21 1/ and the achievement of sustainable development, the Committee wishes to emphasize that human resources development is of particular importance as a tool for the institutional strengthening of governmental, private and non-governmental organizations.

National capacity-building in the area of water resources management must include the capacity to undertake regional assessments of the relationship between water and soils as a resource, based on strategic scientific surveys involving geological and hydrological approaches, together with relevant socio-economic and ecological studies, as well as the capacity to integrate this information with other information sets in a holistic management strategy. In this regard, airborne radiometric data sets can be particularly valuable in providing the basis for a strategic understanding and management of soils.

In dealing with issues of capacity-building, the Committee wishes to stress the need to develop policies aimed at the retention of trained personnel needed to implement water resources development and management programmes continuously and successfully.

The Committee takes into account that the great diversity of conditions faced by water-short regions of the world calls for the execution of selected case-studies to identify their main underlying causes and characteristics.

The Committee stresses the importance of strengthening technical cooperation and coordination in capacity-building in developing countries, together with increasing North-South cooperation, especially in the areas of financial support and technology transfer, as the achievement of sustainable development in the field of water resources will require a fair and equitable sharing of knowledge between developed and developing countries.

In view of the above and other considerations, the Committee:

(a) Recommends that organizations of the United Nations system promote capacity-building as a component of all technical cooperation programmes, unless a specific need for a separate programme is identified;

(b) Welcomes the ongoing assistance of various United Nations organizations with regard to capacity-building for water resources development and management;

(c) Recommends that such assistance be increased in the future, taking into account local conditions, specific needs and constraints faced by individual countries. Besides training and the transfer of technology, this assistance should also include the adequate provision of equipment and machinery;

(d) Recommends that on-the-job training programmes take into consideration the wider requirements of capacity-building for water resources planning and management;

(e) Recommends that the above-mentioned case-studies be based on a holistic approach and thus consider both bio-geo-chemical and socio-technological cycles of water, with a view to supporting human resources development in developing countries, and that priority be assigned to drought-stricken regions of developing countries.

K. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources

13. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee reaffirmed the importance of mineral resources for sustainable development, particularly of developing countries and economies in transition.

Having reviewed the activities of the United Nations in the development and management of mineral resources, the Committee expressed its support for the technical cooperation activities carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Development in that field, including their economic and scientific aspects.

The Committee stressed that providing assistance and support to the developing countries and economies in transition to attract foreign investments and negotiate complex foreign investment agreements was among the important areas of such technical cooperation.

The Committee noted, in particular, the important social role of mineral resources development and its potential contribution in the fight against poverty. It stressed that the social implications of the ongoing trend towards privatization of mining activities should receive adequate attention.

With regard to its own role in relation to non-renewable energy sources, the Committee wishes to emphasize the following:

(a) The role of the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development is fully acknowledged;

(b) Note is taken of the fact that the mandate of the above new Committee is focused on energy development, efficiency and consumption;

(c) The exploration and extraction of coal and uranium resources have much in common with those activities as related to other mineral resources;

(d) Likewise, environmental impacts of the exploration and extraction of coal and uranium resources have close affinities with those related to other mineral resources;

(e) Furthermore, non-renewable energy minerals are also used for the production of other products and as a substitute for other commodities.

In view of the above, when the Committee is considering issues that are common to the exploration, extraction and processing of mineral resources in general, and the environmental impact of those activities, it would not necessarily wish to exclude energy resources.

The Committee noted with regret the absence of a report on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration at the first session of the Committee.

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare, for the second session of the Committee, a report on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector, and in so doing, to pay special attention to projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of the developing countries and economies in transition (i) to develop effective foreign investment policies and negotiate mining investment agreements and (ii) to develop and implement adequate social policies to respond to the ongoing trend towards privatization of the mining sector;

(b) That the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme be invited by the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Committee, at its second session, a report on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. Such a report should include current administrative mechanisms and financing arrangements, as well as an extensive assessment of achievements and future programmes of activities of the Fund, taking into consideration the increased involvement of private foreign mining companies in the mining sector of developing countries and economies in transition.

L. Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries

14. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee welcomes the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries (E/C.7/1993/9) and stresses the importance of multilateral and bilateral aid programmes for developing the mineral resources of developing countries, as well as the growing importance of private foreign investment. Special reference is made to chapter II, sections A to C, of the report.

The Committee recommends:

That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to update his report (E/C.7/1993/9) for the second session of the Committee, taking into account the special needs of the economies in transition as well as requirements for environmental protection. The report should also take into account comments made by the members of the Committee on this issue, devote special attention to the collection and adequate presentation of geological and mining information and to the conditions of mineral rights and include country profiles (political and commercial risks) - these items to be taken into account in existing and future projects of the mineral programmes of the United Nations; relevant information available from non-governmental organizations should be collected and included in the report.

M. Issues concerning the more efficient use of materials, their recycling, their replacement by high-technology substitutes, and the transfer of such technologies

15. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

Mineral-producing developing countries and the economies in transition cannot afford to be oblivious to the substitution that is taking place and also the trend in increased use of recycled mineral products in the major markets which they serve. The trend in the demand for mineral products in the industrialized countries continues to decline as a result of a process of "dematerialization" - that is, replacement of traditional materials with new ones and with technologies less intensive in mineral products.

In view of this development, the Committee recommends that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development continue to produce "forecast analyses" of the demand for major mineral products, taking into account as much as possible the trends and technologies mentioned above. The forecast scenarios, prepared with the cooperation of developing countries, can be useful instruments for policy makers of developing countries. As a complementary activity, the United Nations system could promote international cooperation in research and development of new materials and the effective transfer of such technologies to the developing countries.

In view of the important and potentially negative effects that the reduction of demand from industrialized countries may have on developing countries and economies in transition, the Committee recommends that a study be conducted on the long-term effects of the more efficient use of mineral products, their recycling and their replacement by high-technology substitutes and on measures to be taken to improve the situation of developing countries, including capacity-building, transfer and adaptation of technologies relative to new materials production and processing.

The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare, in cooperation with relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, the study mentioned above for future consideration by the Committee.

The Committee hopes that assistance will be provided by donor countries or organizations in the preparation of the study. In this connection, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to pursue, through the Economic and Social Council, with the Governments of Italy and other

industrialized countries, ways to provide assistance in carrying out the study.

N. Issues concerning the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment, held in Berlin in 1991, and implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector

16. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

In accordance with its new terms of reference, the Committee stresses the importance of this item, in particular as it relates to the sustainable development of mineral and water resources.

The Committee proposes for consideration at its second session an item entitled "Implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector".

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare for the second session of the Committee a report on the effects of changing environmental legislation and regulations applicable to the mining industry on a global basis;

(b) The preparation, by the entities of the United Nations system concerned, of a series of studies on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining in developing countries and economies in transition, starting with precious and base metals;

(c) A review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining waste and tailings for the recovery of useful mineral components in order to alleviate disposal problems.

O. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding enterprises in this area

17. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The great diversity of questions and problems arising from small-scale mining indicates that regional case studies should be conducted.

In recognition of the efforts and results obtained by United Nations organizations, further regional and national case studies of selected mineral products should be conducted in selected regions and countries.

Since technical, environmental and social problems are a major concern in this connection, integrated approaches are to be considered a priority.

The case studies should provide an integrated view of environment (the physical and biological settings considered in an ecosystem analysis), social, economic and technological issues.

Risk analysis and technologies to mitigate and prevent negative effects on the environment, health and the social structure should be stressed.

In view of the above considerations, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare for the second session of the Committee a report on small-scale mining. The report should address:

(a) The impact of small-scale mining on environmental and social aspects of the regions selected (giving priority to precious metals, industrial minerals and construction materials);

(b) The drawing up and/or adaptation of related legislation and regulations;

(c) Typical, mechanized small-scale mining operations, conditions and possibilities for implementing them, and improvement of miners' working conditions.

Special attention should be given to the position and role of women in small-scale mining.

P. Priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of mineral resources

1. Information management

2. Capacity-building for mineral sector management

18. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee, in considering this item, paid particular attention to issues concerning the flow of investment in the mineral sector of developing countries and capacity-building in investment promotion.

Taking into account the problems identified in obtaining reliable and consistent data on foreign direct investment and the existing economic analyses of activity in the mining sector undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank, the Committee considers that a study of proposed procedures, costs and benefits should be undertaken before any comprehensive attempt at analysis of foreign direct investment flows is proceeded with.

The Committee considers that the existing level of analyses is helpful and suggests that its value could be further enhanced by reflecting major geological regions controlling mineral deposit types as well as purely geographical or socio-economic groups. Methodologies to this effect should be studied by the United Nations.

In addition, the Committee believes that increased attention should be given in the United Nations system to a particular aspect of capacity-building. This is the building of systematic knowledge bases concerning the nature, quantity and location of mineral resources and of mineral resource potential.

The Committee notes that there is a similar need for systematic regional knowledge bases relating to soil and water resources and that these need to be integrated with the mineral resource knowledge base. Such a knowledge base for mineral resources is generated from geoscientific surveys that build upon the knowledge generated by scientific research. At the national level this will assist government management of the mineral sector by providing the scientific infrastructure to attract foreign investment and the scientific basis for sound development and taxation policies, and by placing the mining sector in the context of overall land and environmental management.

The Committee believes that such surveys are assuming increasing importance at both the national and international levels, since competing requirements for land use are reducing the accessibility and availability of the intrinsic potential of soil, water and mineral resources in many areas of the world.

The Committee stresses that this is not simply a need for improved management of existing information but is mainly a need for gathering, classifying and interpreting information in a systematic manner to provide knowledge to assist the sustainable management of natural resources.

The Committee therefore recommends that organizations of the United Nations system encourage strategic programmes of regional resource assessment and land classification at both the national and international levels. Such programmes should aim at integrating information concerning water and soils as well as minerals in order to understand how the areas of potential for the different resources relate to each other and to various land bases. This will assist the approach to integrated water and land management in a socio-economic context. The Committee also recommends that the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare a report containing a summary review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes.

Q. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee

19. The Committee recommends that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its second session, set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources (including disaster prevention and mitigation in the field of water resources; particular emphasis to be given to

issues of public participation and the role of women in the development and management of water resources)

Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector (with particular emphasis on projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries and economies in transition, and including disaster prevention and mitigation in the field of mineral resources)

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the Governing Council of UNDP on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (including current administrative mechanisms and financing arrangements, as well as an extensive assessment of achievements and future programmes of activities of the Fund)

Report of the Secretary-General on existing international principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, as well as on the present state of activities within the United Nations system (taking into account recent advances in remote sensing, geophysics, data processing and other relevant techniques)

4. Review of progress on water-related issues:

(a) Review of progress, constraints and limitations in the implementation of water-related issues (including inputs from specialized agencies and regional commissions);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken by Governments towards meeting the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and Agenda 21 on water-related issues

(b) Consideration of new instruments for global action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on activities related to instruments for global action in other environmental areas and on the substantive content of such instruments (including an analysis of issues related to formalizing the rights of humanity and the relevant duties of Governments)

5. Legislative and institutional aspects of water resources management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on institutional and legal issues related to integrated water resources management

6. Economic and social development needs in the mineral sector:

(a) Flow of financial resources, development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources in developing countries and economies in transition;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and the development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources sector of developing countries and economies in transition (taking into account comments made by the members of the Committee)

(b) Regional mineral resource assessment programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing a review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs

(c) Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition (including social and environmental impacts related to legislation and regulations; and mechanized operations, with special attention to the role and contribution of women)

7. Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effects of changing environmental legislation and regulations applicable to the mining industry on a global basis

8. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

Chapter II

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES

20. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 29 March 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources (E/C.7/1993/2).

21. The report was introduced by the Director of the Legal Advisory Services for Development of the Department of Economic and Social Development. He stressed that recent developments in the area of environment and the evolution of international norms relating to sustainable development compelled an examination of the concept of permanent sovereignty in a broader context. He emphasized the importance of the sovereignty issue to the sustainable development of natural resources and the need to consider ways and means to enhance the effective capacity of developing countries to explore, process and utilize their natural resources. He concluded by stressing that the Department of Economic and Social Development was ready to increase its cooperation with other members of the United Nations family in providing member countries with the information, advisory services and training that they required to achieve sustainable development, while exercising their permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

22. Several members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the high quality of the report.

23. Particular attention was devoted to the relationship between the principle of permanent sovereignty and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. A member of the Committee suggested that the rules and standards applied by the World Bank and the regional development banks should also be considered.

24. Several members of the Committee stressed the importance of issues related to shared watercourses and, in particular, major river basins. It was observed that those issues deserved particular attention in the future work of the Committee. In view of the increasing pressure on scarce water resources and the need to avoid the emergence of conflict between users in upstream and downstream countries, international cooperation in that area could also be seen as a specific aspect of preventive diplomacy.

25. In referring to the draft articles on the law of the non-navigational use of international watercourses, a member of the Committee suggested that the Committee incorporate the work done by other groups, such as the principles endorsed by the International Law Association. He suggested that a report on international shared watercourse issues, to be considered by the Committee at its second session, include background information and comments by member States.

26. Several members referred to the question of ownership over mineral resources and to the respective rights and obligations of Governments and private mining companies.

27. A member of the Committee referred to specific contractual arrangements in the mining sector, whereby the Government itself was a shareholder in the development; the view was expressed that, in such situations, a conflict of interest might emerge between the two roles performed by the Government - its role as shareholder and its role as protector of the environment.

28. It was also noted that the imposition of additional post-contract environmental measures could lead to action, often submitted to arbitration, for benefits forgone or additional unplanned costs. The need to be able to adjust contract terms and conditions in a changing environment was noted, as the attraction of economic activity such as mining required a stability in the relationship between Governments and the private sector.

29. As to the difference between concession agreements and more recent types of agreements in the mining sector, it was stated that neither type of agreement should, a priori, be taken as superior to the other, and that each individual agreement should be judged by its own content.

30. The representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic Commission for Africa also made statements.

Chapter III

NEW TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING, FOR IDENTIFYING, EXPLORING FOR AND ASSESSING MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES

31. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 29 and 30 March 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources (E/C.7/1993/3).

32. The head of the Remote Sensing Section of the Science and Technology Branch of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development introduced the report. He reviewed the activities of the Department in assisting developing countries to gain access to remote-sensing techniques and emphasized that the implementation of many objectives outlined in Agenda 21, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, would depend on data sets and data acquisition on a global scale, using satellite platforms.

33. The Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs also made a statement. He outlined the applications of space technology, as related to water and mineral resources exploration and assessment and reviewed the activities carried out by the Office in that particular field.

34. The view was expressed that the use of satellite technology for remote sensing should be complemented by the elaboration of an appropriate legal regime to protect the rights of the developing countries, in particular. A member of the Committee, referring to the experience of his own country, noted that many modern technologies, including those related to remote sensing, were sold by industrialized countries in packages, which often created difficulties in the process of integrating those technologies at the level of the purchasing developing country.

35. Several members observed that other modern techniques, such as airborne systems for data collection, were also of great relevance for the exploration and management of natural resources. The approach should be first to define the nature of the problem or data gap and then to look at the most effective combination of technologies that would meet that need.

36. It was suggested that, in future, the Committee focus its attention on specific applications of remote-sensing techniques, for example in the area of land management and hydrological forecasts.

37. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

38. It was observed that the application of remote-sensing techniques was of considerable importance for the developing countries and that the transformation of the Committee on Natural Resources into an expert body would contribute to focusing attention on the most relevant issues in that area.

Chapter IV

DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION IN DEVELOPING AND UTILIZING MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES

39. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 30 March 1993. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development made an oral report, on behalf of the Secretary-General, on disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources. He emphasized the importance of the effective implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and provided concrete examples of technical cooperation carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Development.

40. A member of the Committee noted that some countries, the United States of America and Canada, in particular, possessed valuable experience in the field of disaster prevention and mitigation. He observed that the Committee would benefit from being acquainted with the relevant experience and legislation of those and other countries.

41. Another member stressed the importance of proactive strategies in the field of water resources. She emphasized the multiple causes of water-related disasters, noting the need for integrated water management, which included soil moisture as well as surface and groundwater, particularly in drought-prone areas.

42. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

43. It was observed that most of the activities referred to in the oral report could not be separated from mainstream activities related to the sustainable development and management of water and mineral resources. As in many areas of discussion by the Committee, a holistic approach was necessary, which considered prevention, warning, response to extreme events and mitigation of damage after it had occurred. Natural and man-made disasters could not be totally separated and must be considered in similar ways.

Chapter V

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES

44. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at the 1st meeting of its Working Group on Water Resources, on 31 March 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources (E/C.7/1993/4).

45. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development, who noted that although the mandates of the various organizations of the United Nations system inevitably overlapped in several areas, the very fact that organizations brought a variety of perspectives to the field offered opportunities for a more integrated approach to water resources activities. Coordination occurred through various collaborative arrangements at the global, sectoral and regional levels. He described three concrete examples of successful inter-agency coordination at the global level: the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination; the Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation; and the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation. He also mentioned various examples of coordination mechanisms at the regional level, as well as among groups of agencies in specific areas of activity, such as urban or rural water resources.

46. With regard to key meetings and conferences held recently, he drew the attention of the Committee to both the International Conference on Water and the Environment, held in Dublin in January 1992, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. In response to queries from members of the Committee concerning links between institutional arrangements to follow up UNCED and the future work of the Committee in the area of water resources, the Director of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development explained the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had recently been established by the Economic and Social Council, and summarized the restructuring process taking place within the United Nations Secretariat.

47. Several members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the high quality of the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1993/4). It was felt that the task of coordination among United Nations organizations and agencies dealing with various aspects of water resources posed a great challenge but that existing coordinating mechanisms constituted a sound basis for further progress in the field. The view was expressed that further efforts needed to be made to expand the coordination of activities with other external support agencies, notably the regional development banks and non-governmental organizations. In that regard, the work of the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation was noted.

48. Several members of the Committee suggested that the Committee also deal with matters concerning the protection of ocean resources, such as coastal zone management, which was relevant to both freshwater and mineral resources. In that regard, it was noted that the bulk of coastal pollution emanated from land-based and freshwater pollution. The need to consider the human health, biological and aquatic environment components of water resources was also raised within the context of the Committee's activities. It was noted that efforts on such issues as water-borne disease and eutrophication were being addressed by

other organizations within the United Nations system, and it would be necessary to maintain close collaboration with them on common interests.

49. The view was expressed that, despite the impressive amount of work done in the field of water resources since the United Nations Water Conference, held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1977, huge problems remained, particularly in ensuring a safe water supply for the world's population. New conceptual frameworks should focus on the integrated management of water and land resources as well as on socio-economic considerations.

50. Several members of the Committee suggested that, in considering transboundary water resources, the Committee should deal not only with the integrated development and management of those resources but also with their protection. In addition, with regard to the management of data at the shared basin and global level, it would be useful to examine the issues of standardization and compatibility of information systems.

51. One expert pointed out that, although both the Dublin and Rio Conferences had recognized the importance of water legislation and important work had been done previously by such authoritative bodies as the International Law Association and the International Association for Water Law, no practical solutions for addressing the issue had been formulated. However, some of the work of the International Law Association had been incorporated in the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources (E/C.7/1993/2).

52. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the World Meteorological Organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic Commission for Africa. They informed the Committee of the various programmes and activities undertaken by their organizations in the field of water resources.

Chapter VI

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES

53. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at the 2nd meeting of its Working Group on Water Resources, on 1 April 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the provisions of Agenda 21 relevant to the area of freshwater resources (E/C.7/1993/5).

54. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development, who noted that the report identified the main water-related objectives, activities and targets specified in Agenda 21 and called for interprogramme cooperation and collaboration. He referred to the numerous threats to sustainable development deriving from the scarcity and misuse of water resources and concluded by stressing that the effective implementation of the freshwater provisions of Agenda 21 were of vital importance to the solution of those problems.

55. Several members of the Committee noted that the freshwater chapter of Agenda 21 tended to emphasize specific issues, such as drinking-water supply, pollution and technical matters, at the expense of equally important topics, such as navigation and linkages with land-based activities.

56. One expert expressed the view that Agenda 21 had not given due importance to vital legal matters.

57. Several members were concerned about the difficulties facing the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly with regard to coordination at the national level, including coordination between central and local authorities.

58. It was observed that the promotion of a holistic and integrated approach to water-resources development and management could be more effectively achieved at the regional level, including the involvement of existing organizations, such as regional commissions, regional development banks, river basin authorities and non-governmental organizations. In addition, the Committee should identify and examine existing constraints in such crucial areas as capacity-building and the availability of data.

59. It was suggested that, at future sessions, the Committee consider a review of the implementation by Member States of the freshwater-related activities of Agenda 21, a study of the financial implication of such activities and a mid-term review (in 1995) of water-related disasters as part of the ongoing International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

60. One member urged both greater recognition of freshwater as a limited resource and greater emphasis on the impacts of the competing uses of water on the ecosystem. The view was also expressed that stronger emphasis should be placed on the life-giving aspects of freshwater resources. A member noted that the integration of land-based and freshwater-related activities was among the crucial challenges to be addressed by the Committee.

61. The following issues were identified as deserving priority attention: (a) the competing uses of scarce water resources; (b) insufficient capacities in developing countries; (c) the lack of integrated strategies for the development and management of water resources; and (d) the lack of sufficient and prompt financial aid.

62. The representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme also made statements.

Chapter VII

ISSUES CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

ISSUES CONCERNING TECHNOLOGIES FOR INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF WATER AND FOR WATER RECYCLING, AND THE TRANSFER AND ADAPTATION OF SUCH TECHNOLOGIES

63. The Committee considered item 8 (a) and (b) of its agenda at the 2nd meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 1 April 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on human development issues and water resources development in the 1990s (E/C.7/1993/6).

64. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development, who stressed that gains made in such areas as drinking water supply and sanitation had been undermined by worsening macroeconomic conditions, rapid population growth and widespread poverty. He emphasized that industrial and agricultural pressures on the environment provoked deforestation, desertification, loss of biodiversity, ozone depletion and global warming, and posed an increasing threat to freshwater sources. He placed particular emphasis on the relationship between water and poverty in urban and rural areas, and the need for the promotion of participatory approaches to water resources development. He concluded by noting that the main purpose of the report was to identify the key dimensions and problems of human and water resources development as a first step towards the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies.

65. Several members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the quality of the report, which reflected the experience of their countries and regions with regard to public participation in water resources development and management.

66. A member of the Committee made a statement on issues concerning technologies for increasing efficiency in the use of water and for water recycling, including the transfer and adaptation of such technologies.

67. Several members of the Committee stressed that greater emphasis should be placed on water demand management as a tool for promoting both greater efficiency and the achievement of sustainability. They stressed, in addition, that particular attention should be paid to the development of both information management systems and biotechnological techniques that promoted more efficient uses of water in agriculture.

68. Other members indicated that minimizing water use in agriculture generated other benefits, such as a reduction of waterlogging, salinization and waste.

69. It was generally agreed that, while the transfer of more advanced technology to achieve more efficient water use should be promoted, emphasis should also be given to the adaptation of local technology and the development of intermediate technologies by developing countries and economies in transition.

70. One expert noted that the introduction of new technologies was not so difficult as the accompanying institutional change required. It was argued that significant improvements in efficiency of use and cost effectiveness could be achieved in many developing countries and economies in transition through

"technology blending" - that is, the gradual introduction of new technology without drastic changes in traditional social and economic structures.

71. While demand management and pricing policies were generally recognized as an effective tool for more efficient overall water management, some experts stressed that the availability of adequate and reliable data on water use and water supply, in terms of both quality and quantity, was a major obstacle to promoting effective demand management policies and strategies, and suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on the collection and dissemination of data and information on water resources.

72. The representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia also made statements.

Chapter VIII

CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITY PROGRAMMES FOR COORDINATED ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE AREA OF WATER RESOURCES

A. Information management

B. Capacity-building for water resources management

73. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at the 3rd meeting of its Working Group on Water Resources, on 2 April 1993. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on information management (E/C.7/1993/7) and on capacity-building for water resources management (E/C.7/1993/8).

74. The report on information management was introduced by a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development. He noted that previous and current attempts to monitor water resources at the national, regional or global level had been fraught with serious difficulties owing to the widespread absence of comprehensive, timely, accurate and reliable information. He also stated that data on a variety of crucial physical, demographic, economic and social parameters were often collected and processed in a fragmented manner without a holistic perspective regarding the types of data sets required for water resources management. He concluded by stressing the need for developing countries and economies in transition to enhance their capacity for the collection, collation, analysis, display and communication of the information required for sustainable development and management of water resources. The rapid evolution of electronic data processing during the 1980s and the present availability of the required hardware and software at relatively low cost facilitated the integration of the knowledge base.

75. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development also introduced the report on capacity-building for water resources management. He explained that the concept of "capacity-building" could include four elements: (a) information development and management; (b) human resources development; (c) institutional and legal arrangements; and (d) public awareness. He noted that, while implementation should logically begin with building up national strategic planning capabilities, primarily in order to be able to attract financial support, action plans should also concentrate on the strengthening of implementation capabilities at the country or local level, creating opportunities for public participation and the involvement of such community-based institutions as non-governmental organizations and women's groups. He concluded by drawing the attention of the Committee to the need to promote capacity-building and to determine priorities in terms of the allocation of national, regional and global financial resources.

76. Many members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the high quality and comprehensiveness of both reports. They stressed the importance of establishing integrated information systems at the national, regional and global levels in order to increase awareness of the state of freshwater resources, and to provide a sound basis for the formulation and implementation of water resources strategies.

77. Several members of the Committee suggested that information management systems for water resources be promoted on their own right and not simply as a complementary component of other programmes and projects. Others noted that integrated information management should involve the collection, analysis and dissemination of different types of data required for a holistic approach to water resources management, such as hydrological, climatological, geological,

socio-economic and land-use data. One expert suggested that data on soil resources also be included. The specific situation of drought-stricken southern Africa was also addressed.

78. Particular attention was devoted to various obstacles to the establishment of integrated information systems, particularly in developing countries. It was stressed, inter alia, that the collection of data should be coupled with enhancing the overall knowledge of the nature of problems.

79. With regard to capacity-building, all the experts agreed that it should be considered a key factor in the formulation and implementation of water resources development and management strategies.

80. Several experts stressed the importance of both human resources development and institutional strengthening and the need for adequate financial support for the developing countries to support those activities.

81. Several experts also emphasized the need to promote South-South cooperation in capacity-building, and mentioned that existing technical cooperation arrangements by the United Nations system for training and experience sharing provided a good example in that area.

82. Attention was also devoted to capacity-building at the political level. One member said there was a need for an international convention on water resources and several other members agreed.

83. The representatives of the World Meteorological Organization and the World Health Organization also made statements.

Chapter IX

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF MINERAL RESOURCES

84. The Committee considered agenda item 10 at the 1st meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 31 March 1993. The Chief of the Mineral Resources Branch of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development, made a statement. She described the functions, capabilities and activities of the Branch, highlighting cross-sectoral activities related to mining and the environment, social and gender issues and disaster prevention and mitigation.

85. Appreciation was expressed of the role played by the Department of Economic and Social Development in mining sector activities.

86. Several members of the Committee suggested that the future work of the Department focus on issues related to foreign direct investment in the mining sector of developing countries. They stressed the importance of both disseminating information on the mining development potential of developing countries and assisting those countries in the initial stages of negotiating mining agreements.

87. In view of the trend towards privatization, it was observed that an important role of the Department of Economic and Social Development should be to advise and assist developing countries in strengthening their institutions and creating infrastructure conducive to investment.

88. Several members pointed to the importance of considering the environmental impacts of mining activities and mitigation measures.

89. Responding to inquiries by some members about the reasons for excluding coalmining and hydrocarbons from the Committee's agenda, the Director of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division explained the rationale of the recent restructuring of the Committee and invited members to consider the issue, taking into account the Committee's new terms of reference.

90. It was observed that the consideration of issues related to the exploration, development and mining of coal should be within the terms of reference of the Committee and that the matter should be referred to the Economic and Social Council. The consideration of coal as an energy source should logically be undertaken by the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

91. The representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration made statements in which they reviewed the activities of their organizations in the field of mineral resources.

92. Several members of the Committee expressed regret that no formal report had been prepared on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. In their view, such a report should be prepared for the second session of the Committee. It should contain a review of projects executed since the establishment of the Fund; an assessment of its success and achievements; and an analysis of its role in the context of the increased participation of the private sector in the mining industry.

Chapter X

FLOW OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

93. The Committee considered item 11 (a) of its agenda at the 1st meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 31 March 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition (E/C.7/1993/9).

94. The report was introduced by the Chief of the Mineral Resources Branch of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development. She emphasized that since the mid-1980s there had been significant cut-backs in assistance programmes, and inflows of foreign investments to the mineral sector of developing countries had not compensated for those losses. She pointed to the need for developing countries to address a multitude of cross-sectoral issues in order to remove barriers to the flow of foreign investment in the mining sector. She concluded by explaining the role of the Department of Economic and Social Development in providing legal policy and investment promotion advisory services to developing countries in that area.

95. Several members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the high quality of the report.

96. It was observed that developing countries and economies in transition should adopt three main courses of action in order to reduce the risks faced by foreign investors and to promote sustainable mining activities: (a) establish user-friendly databases; (b) enact modern mining legislation and regulations; and (c) enhance, with appropriate support from the United Nations, their institutional frameworks and negotiating capabilities for concluding complex mining agreements.

97. One member of the Committee noted that the discussion on issues related to patent legislation at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had been inconclusive and suggested that the Committee also address patent legislation problems.

98. Several members of the Committee pointed to the need to improve the exchange of information about technical seminars and workshops conducted on a national basis.

99. Another member stressed the need for a mechanism to monitor the flow of funds to developing countries and noted that the United Nations was best equipped to establish such a mechanism.

100. It was observed that issues in the area of international trade, such as the existence of major trading blocs and the vertical integration of transnational corporations, also played an important role in determining economic prospects for the sustainable development of the mining sector.

101. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also made a statement.

Chapter XI

ISSUES CONCERNING THE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF MATERIALS, THEIR RECYCLING, THEIR REPLACEMENT BY HIGH-TECHNOLOGY SUBSTITUTES, AND THE TRANSFER OF SUCH TECHNOLOGIES

102. The Committee considered item 11 (b) of its agenda at the 2nd meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 1 April 1993.

103. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman stated that mineral producers could not neglect trends towards the substitution of minerals and the increased use of recycled materials. He emphasized that effective responses to those phenomena required analysis and understanding of the underlying causes of such trends.

104. The member of the Committee who had proposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda said that the decline in the prices of most major metals and minerals had been caused by, inter alia, a long-term decline in the demand for raw materials in the industrialized countries, which needed less energy and raw materials to generate wealth and were moving from the concept of strategic materials to that of strategic technologies. Two other aspects of the "dematerialization" of production processes were the substitution of materials by advanced technology and the increased role of recycling. The decrease in price was also a reflection of the application of new technologies, primarily at the processing level.

105. Several members of the Committee noted that the trends under discussion were disadvantageous to developing countries and could lead to a further deepening of the gap between developing and industrialized countries, with adverse consequences for global stability.

106. It was observed that transfer of technology that would reduce costs and improve environmental conditions in developing countries and economies in transition, provision of information on substitute materials and a gradual shift towards downstream processing of materials were appropriate strategies to consider for addressing the problem.

Chapter XII

ISSUES CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL ROUND-TABLE ON MINING AND THE ENVIRONMENT, HELD IN BERLIN IN 1991, AND IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN THE MINERAL SECTOR

107. The Committee considered item 12 of its agenda at the 2nd meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 1 April 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on conclusions and recommendations of the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/C.7/1993/10).

108. The Chief of the Mineral Resources Branch of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development made a statement on the activities of the Department in the field of mining and the environment, within the context of the United Nations system.

109. Several members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the high quality of the report of the Secretary-General.

110. One expert expressed concern about the poor reputation of the mining sector in the media. He noted, however, that the situation had somewhat improved since the adoption of the Berlin Guidelines (E/C.7/1993/10, annex I) by the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment, held in June 1991. He stressed that the Berlin Guidelines were of a general nature and that each mining project should be looked at based on site-specific factors, including the socio-economic regime.

111. The need to harmonize environmental regulations and measures aimed at attracting foreign investment in developing countries and economies in transition was addressed by several members of the Committee.

112. One member of the Committee pointed to the need for reasonable government control to deal with both the concerns of mining companies and the protection of the environment. Reference was made to the specific experience of the Russian Federation and its State Commission on Reserves and State Committee on Safety Control in Mining and Industry. The importance of identifying the cost of compliance with environmental regulations was emphasized by the Committee.

113. Several members noted that competing interests existed between mining and other economic activities, such as agriculture, particularly in Africa. This was attributed to the important role of mining in southern African economies, as well as to the lack of appropriate legal instruments and expertise in environmental matters. Review of the mining legislation of developing countries in order to adjust it to sustainable development requirements was viewed as an important area for the provision of support and advisory services by the United Nations.

114. The representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development also made statements.

Chapter XIII

SMALL-SCALE MINING ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION REGARDING ENTERPRISES IN THIS AREA

115. The Committee considered item 13 of its agenda at the 3rd meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 2 April 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on recent achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries (E/C.7/1993/11).

116. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development. He highlighted the issues, problems and constraints related to small-scale mining activities in developing countries. He said that in many of those countries positive results were achieved in spite of numerous difficulties. He recalled the results of the International Seminar on Guidelines for the Development of Small- and Medium-Scale Mining, held in Zimbabwe in February 1993, and the importance of the Guidelines adopted at the Seminar. The Guidelines called for an action plan for Governments and development agencies alike, to enhance the contribution of small-scale mining to overall economic development.

117. The high quality of the report was praised by several members of the Committee.

118. A member of the Committee suggested that a report or note be prepared by the Secretariat for the second session of the Committee on the following subject: "Typical small-scale mechanized mining enterprises: conditions and opportunities to attract foreign investment for the development of such enterprises".

119. Several members noted the need for model legislation, and expressed the view that it should be based on the concept of mining tenure. The need for realistic environmental provisions and regulations addressing small-scale mining was recognized as a necessary component of any legislation and regulation.

120. The point was made that some countries were implementing regional programmes to develop alternative technologies.

121. A member of the Committee observed that identification of land use, particularly in regions with perceived mining potential, was crucial to avoiding conflicts between small-scale miners and other economic sectors.

122. The point was also made that, in many countries, small-scale quarry operations for building materials were responsible for significant environmental damage.

123. Several members of the Committee highlighted the need for and usefulness of demonstration projects applying appropriate technology for small-scale mining.

124. The case was made that small-scale mining was also being carried out in some industrialized countries with regard to gemstones, gold and some industrial minerals.

125. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa made a statement in which he stressed the economic importance of small-scale mining for the region.

Chapter XIV

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES FOR COORDINATED ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE AREA OF MINERAL RESOURCES

A. Information management

B. Capacity-building for mineral sector management

C. Cross-sectoral issues

126. The Committee considered item 14 of its agenda at the 3rd meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 2 April 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal for a mechanism to monitor and gather information on a regular basis on issues concerning the flow of investment in the mineral sector of developing countries and capacity-building in investment promotion (E/C.7/1993/12).

127. The report was introduced by a representative of the Mineral Resources Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Development, who explained the main elements of the proposed monitoring system. He stressed that the aim of such a system would be to provide Governments with an overview of the global mineral context in which national mineral sector planning occurred, in order to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and economies in transition to manage and develop their mineral resources and to ensure that information was available which identified sources of finance for the development of their mineral sectors.

128. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the quality of the report.

129. Some members of the Committee noted that the factors controlling foreign direct investment were well known and that data on the source and magnitude of investment flows to developing countries would not, by themselves, lead to a better identification of individual factors controlling such flows. It was considered that a clear analysis of proposed procedures, costs and benefits of the system should be undertaken before the establishment of the mechanism was initiated.

130. A member of the Committee, while acknowledging the difficulty of the task, was of the view that a meaningful analysis could be carried out using aggregate data for foreign direct investment in the mineral sector. He felt that such an exercise would be useful to countries for the management of their mineral resources.

131. A member of the Committee noted that the assessment of mining investment potential was closely linked to capacity-building, and information on the progress of capacity-building in developing countries would be desirable. He stated that increased attention should be given to the building of systematic knowledge bases concerning mineral resources and their potential. He was of the view that such knowledge bases were also needed in relation to soil and water and that those bases needed to be integrated with the mineral resource knowledge base. He also stressed that, at the national level, capacity-building programmes would assist government management of the mineral sector by providing the scientific infrastructure to attract foreign investment and by placing the mining sector within the context of overall land and environmental management. He concluded that the value of a monitoring system could be further enhanced if such a system was based on regional geological characteristics.

132. One expert suggested that national data should be submitted in the form of a report rather than as responses to a questionnaire. A report would provide a more realistic assessment.

133. The Director of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development outlined the relevant cross-sectoral activities in the United Nations system and noted the objectives of the ongoing restructuring process of the United Nations Secretariat in terms of enhancing and streamlining the coordination process.

134. A member of the Committee noted that factors affecting foreign direct investment were well known but that the effects of their interactions needed attention.

Chapter XV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

135. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 8 April 1993, the Committee considered the provisional agenda for its second session together with a list of requested documentation (E/C.7/1993/L.4) and recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda, as orally amended, and the requested documentation (see para. 19 above).

Chapter XVI

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST SESSION

136. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 8 April 1993, the Committee adopted the report on its first session (E/C.7/1993/L.3 and Add.1-24), as amended during the discussion.

Chapter XVII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

137. The Committee on Natural Resources held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 29 March to 8 April 1993. It held five meetings. The session was opened by the Director of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, who made a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development.

138. In accordance with paragraph 7 (b) (ii) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Committee had two working groups, one on minerals, and one on water resources. The Working Group on Water Resources held three meetings and the Working Group on Mineral Resources held four.

B. Membership and attendance

139. In accordance with its decision 1992/218, the Economic and Social Council, having recalled General Assembly resolution 46/235, decided to establish, inter alia, a Committee on Natural Resources composed of 24 government-nominated experts from different Member States, who possessed the necessary qualifications and professional or scientific knowledge, and who would act in their personal capacities, elected by the Council for a four-year term.

140. Nineteen members of the Committee attended the first session: Guillermo Jorge Cano, Patrick M. Chipungu, Denis A. Davis, Vladislav M. Dolgopolov, Malin Falkenmark, Ugo Farinelli, Marek Hoffmann, Mohammad Nawaz Khan, Godfrey L. S. Leshange, José Manuel Mejía Angel, Thomas P. Z. Mpofu, Dossou Barthélémy Otchoun, Hendrik Martinus Oudshoorn, Neculai Pavlovschi, Karlheinz Rieck, R. W. Roye Rutland, Luiz Fernando Soarez de Assis, Natarayan Suryanarayanan, Zhang Hai-Lun. Four members were unable to attend: Patricio Jerez, Erastus Kabutu Mwongera, Lukabu Khabouji N'Zaji, Sheik Ibrahim bin Sheik Ali. The election of one expert from Asian States had been postponed.

141. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Ghana, Lebanon, Senegal.

142. The following regional commissions were represented: Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

143. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations University, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank and World Meteorological Organization.

144. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, an intergovernmental organization, was represented.

145. The International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, was also represented.

C. Election of officers

146. At the 1st meeting, on 29 March 1993, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chairman: Thomas P. Z. Mpofu

Vice-Chairmen: Guillermo Jorge Cano
Marek Hoffmann
Zhang Hai-Lun

Rapporteur: Denis A. Davis

D. Agenda

147. At the 1st and 2nd meetings, on 29 March 1993, the Committee amended the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.7/1993/1. The agenda, as adopted, was subsequently circulated in document E/C.7/1993/13 (see annex I below).

148. At the same meetings, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session (E/C.7/1993/L.2).

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources.

4. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources.

5. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources.

6. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources.

7. Matters arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the field of water resources.

8. (a) Issues concerning the sustainable development and use of water resources;

   (b) Issues concerning technologies for increasing efficiency in the use of water and for water recycling, and the transfer and adaptation of such technologies.

9. Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of water resources:

   (a) Information management;

   (b) Capacity-building for water resources management.

10. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources.

11. (a) Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries;

    (b) Issues concerning the more efficient use of materials, their recycling, their replacement by high-technology substitutes, and the transfer of such technologies.

12. Issues concerning the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment, held in Berlin in 1991, and implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector.

13. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding enterprises in this area.

14. Priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of mineral resources:

    (a) Information management;

    (b) Capacity-building for mineral sector management;

(c) Cross-sectoral issues.

15. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee.

16. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1993/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/C.7/1993/2	3	Permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/3	4	New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/4	6	Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/5	7	Provisions of Agenda 21 relevant to the area of freshwater resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/6	8	Human development issues and water resources development in the 1990s: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/7	9 (a)	Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of water resources - Information management: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/8	9 (b)	Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of water resources - Capacity-building for water resources management: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/9	10	Ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/10	11	Conclusions and recommendations of the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/11	12	Recent achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries: report of the Secretary-General

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1993/12	13	Proposal for a mechanism to monitor and gather information on a regular basis on issues concerning the flow of investment in the mineral sector of developing countries and capacity-building in investment promotion: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1993/13	2	Agenda as approved by the Committee at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 29 March 1993
E/C.7/1993/L.1	2	State of preparation of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1993/L.2	2	Organization of work: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1993/L.3 and Add.1-24	16	Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/1993/L.4	15	Provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee

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